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Foreword

[Vorwort]

Stadtbibliothek München Philatelistische Bibliothek Katalog: Übersee., J. Gotteswinter,
Munich, Germany, 1975, pp.5-6

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February 2000

FOREWORD

Philately gains in world wide importance by the expansion of postal connections and the speed of postal transmissions. With the increased demand for postage stamps, the number of philatelists throughout the world rises. Collecting becomes differentiated and more difficult. The stamp, as a small mirror of the times and the civilising and cultural peculiarity of its land of origin, is not only a commercial collecting object but also the carrier of information in all areas of knowledge, as mediator between all continents and peoples, and as small graphic works of art, of all-encompassing educational value.

The philatelist depends more than ever on specialised literature. The Philatelic Library of the city of Munich obliges by publishing the *Overseas Catalogue* and therefore making available a substantial part of their inventory to researchers, collectors and aficionados. It is my duty and pleasure to thank the head of the Philatelic Library of Munich, Mr. Otto Gleixner and his assistant, Mrs. Lieselotte Jackson-Lindner for establishing this catalogue with knowledge of the subject, love for the matter and self-sacrificing courage. A thank you also to the cultural adviser of the state capitol of Munich, Dr. Herbert Hohenemser, whose intervention makes possible the yearly budget of DM 115.000 for the Philatelic Library.

There is one painful restriction in connection with the publication of this catalogue: In the near future the Philatelic Library of Munich will not be able to provide long-distance loans or information and copying services. The reason for this decision is that the branch, staffed with only 2 people, is not able to cope with the rising demand. All efforts to engage additional personnel have faltered owing to the community financial crisis. Other than the existing services the city of Munich cannot provide any additional help. The library is mainly a communal library with communal obligations. As long as there is no subvention by higher authorities or institutions, it has to limit its services to the communal areas.

Therefore I can only ask your indulgence that the two person team of the Philatelic Library of Munich is forced to concentrate their efforts on the communal demands on one hand and

cataloguing their inventory according to subject on the other. It is this subject catalogue that serves the user.

The Philatelic Library is the newest speciality collection in the city library of Munich, which encompasses besides a research central-library a monacensia-branch, a manuscript branch, a law library and a music library. Add to that a widespread net of 26 suburban libraries, 6 mobile libraries and 18 in hospitals and retirement homes.

The foundation of the Philatelic Library was laid in 1931 under the supervision of the many-faceted library director Hans Ludwig Held, by Munich art dealer Friedrich Heinrich Zinkgraf, who donated his private library and the inventory of the Munich Stamp Club to the city of Munich. Additions in the following years, donated by several organisations - including Bavarian researcher Hugo Schroeder - expanded the collection so much that impassioned philatelist Christoph Otto Müller was installed as official director of the Philatelic Library. He not only initiated the systematic inventory structure, but also mentored the important periodicals' index which now contains 80 000 cards.

His successor Walter Merkle continued the work, which now lies in the hands of Otto Gleixner. The Philatelic Library encompasses the literature of philately, postal history, catalogues from auction houses and exhibitions as well as periodicals from all over the world. With its 22,000 books it is the largest and most comprehensive research facility in Germany for culture historians, postal historians, collectors and fanciers.

The Philatelic Library at 5, Sparkassenstrasse, in the middle of Munich is of course open to everyone, easily reached by subway, tram (station Marienplatz) and is in a pedestrians-only zone. Maybe this offering of the *Overseas Catalogue* will prompt a study at home, which will result in including a trip to the Munich Philatelic Library during a trip to Munich for other purposes. Philatelists all over the world are cordially invited.

Munich, October 1974
Dr. Alfons Ott
Director of Munich's City Libraries

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